

Saw Man Standing Over Mrs. Meyer, Witness Testifies

By William Chapman
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A witness in the Mary Pin-Hill Behind Wall

shot Meyer murder case told yesterday of seeing a man standing above a woman's motionless body on the C&O canal towpath on the day Mrs. Meyer was shot last fall.

Henry Wiggins Jr. told a District Court jury he ducked behind a stone wall when the man looked his way, then glanced again to see him put something in his pocket and leave the scene.

Wiggins, a service station attendant drawn to the scene by the sound of two shots, said, "I didn't get a very good look at his face, but I did get a glance at it."

First Major Witness

Wiggins was the first major witness called in the two-day-old trial of Raymond Crump Jr., a laborer accused of shooting the Georgetown artist as she strolled along the towpath.

Wiggins said the man was a Negro, had a medium build, weighed about 185 pounds and wore a dark cap, light jacket and dark trousers.

Crump has pleaded innocent to the murder charge, saying he was fishing that day but lost his fishing equipment before he was apprehended by police.

Wiggins said he was starting to fix a disabled car across Canal Road from the scene when he heard a woman scream for about 20 seconds. Then he heard a shot and raced toward the stone wall above the canal. Just as he reached it he heard another shot.

Looking down, he said he saw the man standing above the woman's body, his head slightly bowed. Wiggins said he dropped down behind the low stone wall when the man looked up at him. As he looked again, the man put a dark object in his jacket pocket and then walked away down an embankment and out of view.

Earlier, Assistant U.S. Attorney Alfred L. Hantman opened what he called "a classic textbook case in circumstantial evidence" by describing the Government's version of the shooting.

He said the victim was attacked from the rear, dragged 20 or 25 feet toward the embankment, and was heard by a witness to scream: "God, somebody help me." Hantman did not say who this witness was.

After being shot once in the left temple, Hantman said, Mrs. Meyer struggled back across the towpath to the canal's edge, crawling on her knees and tearing at her assailant. Then she was shot again in the right shoulder, the bullet ripping through the main blood vessel leading into the heart, the prosecutor said.

Police, who closed off nearby exits from the canal area within minutes, found Crump soaking wet, Hantman said. Hantman said that an officer had Crump in his custody when Wiggins identified Crump as the man he had seen standing over the body earlier.

Fishing Gear Missing

The fishing equipment he allegedly lost in the Potomac

was never found, Hantman continued, and he was seen leaving the house that morning without any.

Dovey J. Roundtree, Crump's attorney, said she would make her opening statement in his behalf when the prosecution rests its case.

Deputy Coroner Dr. Linwood L. Rayford, who pronounced Mrs. Meyer dead on the scene, said powder burns around the wounds showed they were fired at close range, one from within six inches and the other from within 18 inches.

Benjamin C. Bradlee, Washington bureau chief for Newsweek magazine and brother-in-law of the victim, testified he

identified her body for the deputy coroner.

On the night of the shooting, Bradlee said he entered

her artist's studio in Georgetown and found her pocketbook containing a wallet and cosmetics.